

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on June 16, 2008.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended, claims 21-23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 24-31 are added; as a result, claims 1-20 and 24-31 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 13, 14, and 16-17 were rejected under 37 CFR § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson (U.S. Patent No. 4,191,000). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 1 and 9 now contain the allowable subject matter of now canceled claims 21 and 23, respectively. Allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 13, 14, and 16-17 is requested.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 11, 12 and 15 were rejected under 37 CFR § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson (U.S. Patent No. 4,191,000) in view of Veilleux et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,393). Applicant respectfully traverses.

These claims depend from claims that now contain allowable subject matter. Allowance of these claims is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21-23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes the allowance and amends claims 1 and 9 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 21 and 23, respectively. Applicant cancels claim 22 and presents new independent claim 24 that includes the allowable subject matter of claim 22 and the pertinent features of claim 1. Allowance of claim 24 and its dependent claims 25-31 is requested.

CONCLUSION

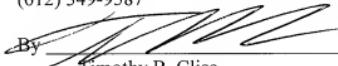
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 349-9587 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 12, 2008


By _____
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 12th day of August 2008.

PATRICIA A. HULTMAN

Name


Signature